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DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC 1924 - 1949

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended bibliography.]

The Mongolian People's Republic is a socialist state retaining sole ownership of the mineral resources, plants, factories, mines, and machine-harvesting stations. (1) There are state and cooperative enterprises in industry, transportation, communications, and agriculture. Private enterprise is represented only in retail trade where it does not exceed 12 or 13 percent. There is a government monopoly of foreign trade and of the one state bank and its branches. (2)

Livestock Raising

Livestock raising is the principal source of income in the Mongolian People's Republic. (2) It accounts for 60 percent of the total national income (3) of about 340 million tugriks (1 tugrik equals 1.31 rubles), or about 198 million tugriks, and employs about five-sixths of the population (2), which is estimated as being somewhere between 900,000 (10) and one million people (1) in an area roughly the size of Alaska, which has a population of about 92,000+100,000. The number of head of livestock in the republic has more than doubled since the formation of the republic in 1924 (2, 3), when there were 13,700,000 head. (4) Therefore, the present figure for livestock is about 27.5 million head. The current Five-Year Plan for the republic anticipates an increase of 50 percent over 1947 (4), or a total of 31 million head of livestock in 1952. (5) Marketable products of livestock raising, in 1948, are nearly double the figure for 1940. (3)

As recently as 1930, 3 million head of livestock were still in the hands of lamaseries; but now all livestock belong to the state, which, as the sole owner of the land and its natural resources, provides the arats (nomadic herds-men and soil cultivators) with free use of pastures and aids them in carrying out their work. The number of cattle owned personally by arats is increasing. The government encourages the formation of voluntary arat producers' unions and furnishes them with agricultural machinery, money, and pedigreed livestock. (6)

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In old Mongolia, as a result of disease, lack of fodder, snowstorms, and cold weather, many head of livestock died every year; and there was actually an annual decline in livestock totals. (7) In recent years, a modern veterinary service has been developed. In 1924, only four veterinary and veterinary aid points existed in the Mongolian People's Republic, whereas in 1949, there are over 500, employing more than 5,000 veterinary workers. The formation of this large corps of veterinaries is one of the greatest achievements of the republic, in which, prior to the revolution, veterinaries were unknown. In addition to the trained Mongolian veterinary workers, there are numerous Russian teachers, who laid the foundations for veterinary science in Mongolia 25 years ago. (2) Many Mongolian bacteriologists and zootechnicians have also been trained. (1)

Machine-harvesting stations, and barns and shelters for the livestock have been built. In dry areas, wells have been drilled. (8) The current Five-Year Plan provides for the construction of thousands of new winter shelters and wells. (4)

Agriculture

Agriculture, formerly in the hands of nomadic Mongols, has made great technical progress since 1937 when the Soviet Union sent in tractors, mowers, and trucks for the formation of the first machine-harvesting stations. (2, 3) Machine-harvesting stations have laid the basis for a permanent feed base for cattle. The number of machine-harvesting stations will increase 10 times by 1952. (4) Machine-rental stations were organized to supply arat production units with cultivators and mowers. Harvesting stations using horses have also been organized to aid the arats in the production of fodder. (3) In 1949, there were 35 harvesting stations using horses in the republic. (9) The amount of hay produced has increased 15 times in the past 10 years. (2)

Great advances have been made in soil cultivation. In 1940, there were 10,092 arat production units; they harvested 6,918 tons of grain from 20,700 hectares of arable land. By 1948, 21,056 arat production units were harvesting 23,500 tons of grain from 28,800 hectares of land. (3) During World War II, the Mongolian People's Republic was able to provide a substantial amount of the country's grain requirements. The republic now harvests 4.5 times as much grain as it did prior to the war (2) and is striving to guarantee the provision of enough grain to supply its entire population. (7).

Mongolia today has either nine (9) or 11 state farms *[goskhoz--gosudarstvennoye zemledel'cheskoye khozaystvo]* (10), which are equipped with the most modern machines. During the past 9 years the net amount of the harvest obtained from state farms increased 4.5 times.

As a result of the revolution, the position of the peasant has also changed. At present, middle peasants along with poor peasants comprise over 95 percent of the arat production units and possess 83.6 percent of all the arat livestock. Of this amount, 69.6 percent belong to the middle peasants. Well-to-do peasants comprise 4-5 percent of the arats in the republic and own 16.4 percent of the livestock. (2)

Industry

During the postrevolutionary years, the Mongolian people created the basis for a national industry which was entirely lacking in prerevolutionary Mongolia. (1) The rapid growth of industry in the Mongolian People's Republic began in 1930 when the Mongolian government concluded an agreement with Soviet industry for technical aid in the construction of industrial combines and other enterprises. (3) The technical aid given by the USSR played a decisive role in the development of Mongolian industry. (1) The USSR is continuing exports of machinery and petroleum to the Mongolian People's Republic. (1)

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At present, the republic has a large number of state and cooperative industrial enterprises. (3) Three fourths of all Mongolian industry is directly in the hands of the state and one fourth is cooperative property. (1)

The largest enterprise in the republic is the Industrial Combine imeni Marshal Choybalsan in Ulan Bator. Put into operation in 1934, it has the latest technical equipment for processing animal hides and includes a tannery, footwear and felt factory. (1, 2) By the beginning of November 1949, this combine had almost completed the 1949 year plan. (15)

In Ulan Bator, many enterprises, including the Ulan Bator Leather Plant (14), the belt factory, the harness and saddlery factory, Bakery No 2, and several home-industry cooperative artels have completed the 1949 year plans and are now working on the 1950 plans. (15) Ulan Bator and Khatkhyl have new wool-washing factories, building-material plants, machinery plants, and many enterprises for the food industry which processes livestock products. (1) Ulan Bator also has a TET (10) which furnishes the city electricity. (7)

Some of the national industries which have been set up during the past few years include: an automobile parts plant, an electric power combine, a group of large light industry factories, large coal mines, about 200 creameries, and other food-producing enterprises. (5) In August 1949, more than 10 creameries were producing above their seasonal plans. (14)

The extraction of coal in the Mongolian People's Republic has increased 127 times. The number of industrial enterprises has increased 252 times (12) /date of reference not given/. Mongolian industrial production from 1927 to 1947 has increased more than 100 times (4) with the greatest rate of growth during the past 3 years. (3) From 1940 to 1949, the net production of government industry, in 1940 prices, increased by 280 percent (9) and the general volume of production increase three (3) to four (5) times. Of this amount, 73.1 percent was produced by government enterprises; and 26.9 percent by domestic industry (3), which produces a varied assortment of consumers' goods and which has many artels (9) and cooperatives (6) that unite thousands of craft workers. (9)

The industrial plan for 1948 was met by 105 percent. The 1949 plan is progressing successfully. The plan for the first half-year of 1949 for industrial enterprises was realized by 102 percent. (5) By the end of the current Five-Year Plan, the net production of industry will have increased to nearly 200 times that of 1927, and will be 196.2 percent of the 1947 amount. (6)

Transportation

Although pack and draft animals are still widely used for transportation, the use of automobiles and trucks is increasing and a network of roads and highways (1), serviced by repair stations and a central repair plant, have been put into operation. (2) Some of the highways are about 1,000 kilometers long. During the past 10 years the truck park has increased 2.5 times. (9)

In 1939, construction was begun on the first narrow-gauge railroad connecting Ulan Bator with Nalaykha in the coal basin. This railroad and the trunk line from Choybalsan through Solov'yevsk, USSR, to Chita have been in operation for several years. On 7 November 1949, a new trunk line from Ulan Bator to Kaulshki, USSR, connecting Ulan Bator with the main lines of the Soviet Union, was put into operation. (1, 2) Air communications are now established among the various centers of the country and with foreign countries. (1)

Planning

As a result of the successful development of industry and the basic reorganizations in the livestock raising economy, it was possible for the Mongolian People's

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Republic to change to a planned national economy on the basis of a Five-Year Plan. (2, 5, 11) At the Ninth Assembly of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party in December 1947, the program for the First Five-Year Plan for the Development of the National Economy and Culture was adopted. (5) In the Five-Year Plan, provisions were made to increase the number of head of cattle 1.5 times, to enlarge the feed base several times by increasing the harvest area, to set up a large number of harvesting stations using horses etc. The plan also provided for the opening of new mines, and the construction of electric power plants and food industry enterprises. (1)

By 1946, as a result of Soviet aid, industrial production in the republic had reached 173 million tugriks. (7) This figure climbed to 188,300,000 tugriks in 1947. (2) By the end of 1952, the volume of industrial production is expected to be 370,600,000 tugriks, of which 253 million tugriks will be put into capital construction for all branches of the national economy. (6, 9) By comparison, the entire state budget of Mongolia in 1921 was 1,700,000 tugriks. (5) The contribution made by the state enterprises to the total industrial production increased from 55.2 percent in 1940 to 74.6 percent in 1946. (2) A general increase in the activities of the individual branches of the national economy -- industry, agriculture, transport -- and the growth of industrial and consumers' cooperatives have considerably increased public income and consumption. During the period from 1921 to 1948 the state budget increased nearly 200 times. (3)

With the development of the mechanization of industry, the productivity of labor also increased. For example, in the food industry, the production of one worker increased from 19,300 tugriks in 1942 to 29,300 tugriks in 1948. (2)

The Ninth Hurul held in February 1949 announced the results of plan fulfillment for 1948, the first year of the Five-Year Plan. The Mongolian people had achieved great success in the development of their economy and culture. The 1948 plan for enterprises of state and cooperative industry of the republic was exceeded. (13)

The 1948-49 plan-fulfillment figures are evidence of the new and considerable achievements of Mongolian workers. On the basis of competition and shock-brigade work, many of the nation's workers have completed the Five-Year Plan in one year. (1)

Cooperatives

State production units in the Mongolian People's Republic, are developing successfully. From 1940 to 1948, the number of livestock in them increased more than four times. Arat voluntary producers' cooperatives to assure a common direction of production are developing. The party and government of the republic in every way support and strengthen these arat cooperatives. The cooperatives receive aid in monetary loans, machines, etc. They are set up to conduct agricultural work, the preparation of fodder, etc., with community ownership of herds and workshops. As state production units, the arat cooperatives have shown a yearly increase in the number of their livestock, whereas individual production units have not achieved this increase.

State production units and arat cooperatives are becoming the models for a large-scale socialist agricultural economy. At the Eleventh Assembly held in December 1947, the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party demanded that all party and state organizations "pay greater attention to the question of organizational and administrative strengthening of the arat producers' cooperatives." (2) There are now 121 arat producers' cooperatives in the republic. (9)

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Trade Unions

Mongolian trade unions now have about 30,000 members.(10) The trade unions of Mongolia are members of the World Federation of Trade Unions and participate in its activity. In 1948, enterprises began to accept decisions of collective agreements for the first time in the history of Mongolia.(5)

Trade unions of the republic are under the direction of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party which now has 28,000 members and candidates.(10)

Medicine

In old Mongolia there were no hospitals, no dispensaries, and no sanitary supervision. Even in 1925, the Mongolian People's Republic had only two doctors. Since then a great deal of work has been done in this field with the aid of Soviet doctors.(2) A wide network of medical institutes has been opened: 32 hospitals and 34 medical centers, 316 medical aid centers(6), 117 nursery schools, women's and children's consultation homes, and lying-in homes. These figures indicate that since 1940 the number of hospitals has doubled; the number of medical centers has increased six times; and lying-in and women's consultation homes, 36 times. All aymag centers now have hospitals and dispensaries.(2) Many rest homes, sanatoriums, kindergartens, and pioneer camps have been opened.(6) By 1952, each "bag" (republic's lowest administrative unit) will have its own medical center.(2) In 1949, there were 1,364 bag medical centers.(6) Epidemics have been reduced, the death rate has been lowered, and the birth rate has risen.(2)

Culture

One of the indications of the steady growth of culture in Mongolia is the growth of the press. Translations into the Mongolian language have been, and are being, made of the works of Marxism-Leninism, world literature, and outstanding works of Soviet writers.(9) The national press has become stronger and has greatly expanded. Ten national and 18 aymag newspapers, 12 national magazines, including the magazines, *Nauka* (Science), *Partiynoye Stroitel'stvo* (Party Construction), the humorous *Matar* (Crocodile), and young people's and pioneers' newspapers are being published. Marxist literature receives the widest dissemination.(2)

Publication of books by the government publishing house has increased more than 30 times.(12) More than 160 textbooks on various subjects with a total circulation of up to 2 million copies have been published.(8)

The republic has several theaters, a circus, 640 clubs and Red Corners, 72 public libraries, 63 cinemas and mobile cinemas.(2) The Five-Year Plan provides for the opening of 389 more clubs and Red Corners.(13) A cinema studio is in operation and has produced several good nationalistic films, including *Sukhe-Bator*, *Mongolia*, *Tsoktotaydzhi*(2), and *Stepnyye Vityazi* (Knights of the Steppes) (8), and has dubbed-in titles for such Soviet films as *Klyatva* (The Vow), *Sel'skaya Uchitel'nitsa* (Rural Schoolteacher), and *Povest' o Nastoyashchem Cheloveke* (The Story of a Man of Today).(2)

At present, 1,230 public radio reception systems are in operation.(1)

During the past 10 years, the expenditures of the state budget for social and cultural measures increased four times.(9)

Education

Prior to the revolution the working population of Mongolia was almost entirely illiterate. This fact made the work of rebuilding the country after the revolution extremely difficult. The cultural revolution began with a mass campaign for the liquidation of illiteracy, and in 1947 compulsory education was introduced. Education was carried on in regular schools and in hundreds of part-time courses. By replacing the old and difficult alphabet with the Cyrillic alphabet, which is easier and more accessible to the masses, the republic achieved

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excellent results. In 1940, with the old alphabet in use, the number of literate persons was only 10 percent of the population, whereas in 1947, with the new alphabet in use, 42.4 percent of the population could read and write. (2) At present, 55.4 percent of the people are literate. (9) The Five-Year Plan provides for the complete elimination of illiteracy among adults in the Mongolian People's Republic and the compulsory primary education of children from the age of eight. (2)

A network of schools and other educational institutions has developed. In 1923, the first 12 primary schools were opened. At present, there are 412 primary, secondary, and general educational higher schools (3) with 59,000 (10) to 60,000 (5) students; 14 technical schools; an evening pedagogical institute; and a higher party school. (9) The Five-Year Plan provides for 421 primary and secondary schools in 1952 (2) and estimates that the number of specialists to be trained by secondary and higher educational institutions during this time will be over 17,500. (1) In 1942, the first state university in Mongolia was opened in Ulan Bator. (1) It has six faculties and 800 students. Along with technical schools, the university receives experienced professors and instructors from the Soviet Union. (2) In addition to training students, the Mongolian State University conducts scientific research. (1)

There is a Mongolian Committee of Science which, with the aid of the Academy of Sciences USSR, (9) conducts scientific research in the fields of geology, history, literature, art, and especially in problems of livestock raising and soil cultivation. (8) Preparations are now being made to build a Mongolian Academy of Sciences at the present location of the republic's Committee of Science. (1) With the aid of Soviet scholars, the Mongolian Committee of Science is editing a work, Istoriia Mongol'skoy Narodnoy Respubliki (History of the Mongolian People's Republic) dealing with the history of Mongolia from ancient times to the present. (9)

All elements of the population have increased their educational qualifications. More than half of all the executive committee representatives of the aymag assemblies have a higher general and political education. All the first secretaries of the rayon committees of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, about half of the second secretaries, and many industrial workers and merchants have a higher general and party-political education. Many workers have studied in higher educational institutions in the Soviet Union. The changes in the status of women are especially striking. Since emancipation after the revolution, Mongolian women have begun to lead active political and cultural lives. During the past 10 years, the number of women in the ranks of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party has increased three times; and in the trade unions, 3.5 times. The number of women in the directing agencies of the government, during the last session, did not exceed 6.6 percent, but after the elections in 1949 the number increased to 22.9 percent.

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